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# WAUKESHA COUNTY CJCC

## JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### OCTOBER 30, 2014

### MINUTES

Benedict called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Present:** Sam Benedict (Chair), Judge William Domina, Pete Slesar, Andrea Will, Dick Farvour, Kelly Haag, Sara Carpenter, Linda Saafir. **Absent:** Luke Hallmark.

**Also Present:** Rebecca Luczaj, Molly Jasmer, Windy Jicha, Mary Wittwer.

#### **Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2014**

Motion: Saafir moved, Haag second to approve the minutes of May 22, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Review Recent Case Filing & Detention Statistics, Including Delinquency & Truancy Dispositions**

Haag distributed a handout titled *Juvenile Court* and indicated that the number of TPRs, adoptions and guardianships continues to go down while JIPS are up in 2014. Haag distributed a handout titled *Truancy Uncontrollable (JIPS) Filings* and remarked that the increase in truancies is influencing the number of JIPS cases. Domina observed that the lower than average JIPS statistics last year were an anomaly and this year's numbers are more in line with previous data. Jasmer said 2006-2007 law changes related to JIPS petitions could be affecting data.

Carpenter mentioned that WCS' Agree to Succeed Program may be helpful in dealing with truant and delinquent-related cases. The group discussed the resources available through Agree to Succeed. Members agreed to meet at a later date to get more information about the program.

Farvour arrived at 3:10 pm.

Haag distributed a handout which outlines detention hearings data from 2005–2014 and said the number of detention hearings has been increasing this year. Per Domina's request, Haag will include TPC hearings and capias filings in future versions of this report.

Haag distributed a handout titled *Waukesha County Dept of Health and Human Services Juvenile Mental Health Calls Monthly Report: May – September 2014* and suggested different ways this data could be shared at future meetings. Benedict said he would like to see the data compiled into a YTD report.

Haag distributed a handout titled *Underage Drinking Citations – 125.07(4)(b)* and indicated that the court commissioner handles these cases twice a month.

Haag distributed a handout titled *2014 "Charges" Age of Offenders* and explained that this report is capturing the number of incidents rather than the number of cases. Domina said he is surprised the number of disorderly charges hasn't increased and wondered if it is due to the efforts of school resource officers. Will said perhaps youth are getting needed services that keep them out of the system.

Benedict said it is useful for all stakeholders on the committee to look at this data once or twice a year.

## **Update on Work of Committee to Improve Habitual Truancy**

Jasmer reviewed the committee's progress to date:

- Decided to focus on reducing court-induced trauma to truants under age 12
- Recognized that truancy for this age group is mostly related to parental behaviors
- Developed steps to reduce system trauma for youngsters
- Develop strategies to help parents of young truants "kick it into gear"
- Created process where GALs help prepare youth for court to reduce anxiety
- Discussed ways to make commissioner's space more comfortable
- Judges given methods to ensure youth are not traumatized in hearings
- Developed process to assess parents and set parental conditions
- Developed more effective sanctions
- Working to get better truancy information from schools
- Performing HIPAA research to learn what information can be shared between stakeholders
- Superintendents are seeking ways to engage families more and avoid expelling children
- Schools are seeking connections to community programming
- Sanctions are "heard more quickly for a quicker response"
- Investigating development of a truancy court

In response to Haag's question, Saafir said it is not logistically possible to bring all youth into courtrooms before truancy hearings to help them prepare. Saafir and Jasmer promoted a community truancy conference scheduled for October 31, 2014 at the Waukesha County Courthouse. Jasmer said truancy is a community issue that needs to be handled by a wide range of stakeholders including schools, school district leadership, governments, families, etc.

Slesar talked about advances his department has made to make alliances with families and build collaborations to reduce truancy and said the number of young truants is rising dramatically.

## **Health & Human Services Department Updates**

### **Overview of the EBP Refinement Grant from the WI Department of Justice**

Slesar said HHS entered into a contract with Carroll University to research and interpret delinquency data through regression and relationship analysis and identify efficacy tools for determining and predicting truancy. The university is tasked with looking for key elements that will help the community predict recidivism through the use of precise tools that assess criminogenic needs. Goals of the effort include refining data that is currently being collected and assessing intervention efforts in hopes of implementing the most effective tools leading to precise interventions. He will share the final report when it is completed.

Haag asked is the grant renewable? Slesar said this is a one-time technical assistance grant.

### **Update on Carey Guides Supervisor Toolkit Curriculum Training Being Implemented in January 2015**

Slesar said five years ago, HHS purchased Carey Guides which help staff provide effective interventions with youth in the system. The department recently purchased the advanced guides which provide 18 months of curriculum for such topics as professional social modeling and identifying and dealing with anti-social behaviors. Division supervisors will lead their staff through "guide" training, reading and exercises to reinforce learning and tool use. Slesar is excited to have staff begin training and implementation of the program.

Carpenter said it is important to invest in staff training.

### **Status of Juvenile Center/Shelter Care**

Slesar updated the committee on Waukesha County's contract with Lad Lake to provide shelter care. Lad Lake is building a separate facility for shelter care on their campus which is expected to be completed by July 1, 2015. Thirteen Juvenile Center staff have been notified that their positions are being eliminated. The county will continue to complete intakes for shelter care and the Sheriff's Department will transport the youth to Lad Lake. Lad Lake is responsible for transporting the youth to and from court.

Haag asked will a court order be needed to transport the youth? Slesar said he would investigate court orders and report back to the committee.

Benedict questioned whether the Sheriff's Department would be transporting these non-delinquent youth with or without restraints. Haag said that decision is generally made by the Sheriff. Benedict stressed the necessity of finding answers to transport issues.

Slesar agreed to investigate Domina's concerns about staff downsizing and court efficiencies.

Benedict asked about future plans for the on-site shelter care and secure detention facilities? Slesar said he was not aware of any future plans for the space. Benedict said he has concerns about ensuring the same standards of care for the county's youth in shelter care. It is important to have treatment consistency. Slesar said standards of care were included in Lad Lake's contract. Benedict said it is important to have a stakeholders' meeting before the new system goes live.

Domina asked does Lad Lake own vans and will they restrain shelter care youth during transport? Slesar said Lad Lake owns their own vans and will not restrain youth during transport. Farvour asked will county staff be relocated to Lad Lake? Slesar said Lad Lake is beginning the hiring process and is aware of our staff being laid off. Slesar anticipates some staff "overlap."

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Update on ways to share HIPAA-appropriate information about families between stakeholders
- Update from committee to improve habitual truancy
- Update on shelter care and transportation protocols

### **Set Next Meeting Date & Discuss Agenda Items**

Luczaj will send out a Doodle survey to set up the next meeting in early spring. Please send future agenda items to Luczaj.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.